SAIL Plants	Invest-ment As on 31-3-98	Outlay Proposed in Revised Estimate 1998-99
Rourkela Steel Plant	5528	437
Bokaro Steel Plant	4278	438
Alloy Steel Plant	182	10
Salem Steel Plant	944	39
Subsidiaries ot SAIL		
IISCO	598	10
VISL	175	14

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (VSP): The total investments made in VSP since its inception from Government and other resources stood at Rs. 8529 Crores (as on 31-3-1998) and revised estimates for 1998-99 is Rs. 55.89 Crores.

(b) The financial performance of Steel Plants of SAIL and its subsidiaries for the last three years as well as accumulated Profit/Losses is as under:

(Rs/Crores)

Plant	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Cumulative as on 31-3-98
Bhilal Steel Plant	819	684	701	4226
Durgapur Steel Plant	-174	-236	-509	-2236
Rourkcia Steel Plant	-57	-316	-374	-407
Bokaro Steel Plant	806	357	367	4305
Alloy Steel Plant	1	-67	-88	-453
Salem Steel Plant	4	-38	-120	-156
IISCO	-49	-213	-395	-1556
VISL	-37	-102	-84	-81

(-) indicate loss.

Major reasons (or losses in these plants include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market, increase in input prices and higher interest cost etc. which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel Some of these plants are operating with old and obsolete technology.

(c) DSP, RSP and SAIL subsidiaries IISCO & VISL are incurring losses continuously during last 3 years.

(d) SAIL has taken number of steps to improve the performance, which inter-alia include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production improving quality of products, and mcreasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing, etc.

Setting up of a steel plant by Australian Company

1657. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Australian Company had a plan to set up a steel plant in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the Company; and

(c) the details of the plan submitted by that Australian Company to set up steel plant in the country?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No proposal has been received from the

Australian Company to set up a steel manufacturing plant in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Afforestation Drive in Mining Areas

1658 SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have begun afforestation drive in the mines in different States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regare in Orissa particularly in Panchapatamali and other bauxite mines in Koraput, Keojhar and Sundargarh districts in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Afforestation drive in the mines in different states has been in vogue, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation under Department of Mines being the enforcement authority under Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder is ensuring afforestation not only within the mining leasehold area but also outside the mining areas. Submission of mining plan for fresh grant of mining lease, renewal of mining lease and existing mining lease is compulsory as per statutory provisions. While examining mining plan, IBM ensures that yearwise afforestation programme is incorporated taking into account the number of trees cut/destroyed due to various mining operations.

Every holder of prospecting licence or a mining lease is required to take measures for plantation not less than twice the number of trees destroyed by reason of any prospecting or mining operations. Further, IBM insists for afforestation on waste dumps, worked out areas and all around the lease hold boundary for stabilisation of dumps, rehabilitation of worked out area and aesthetic environment. As a result around 459 Lac trees have been planted in 735 mines during the period 1989 to March, 1997 covering an area of about 17,141 hectares. In the state of Orissa so far (upto 20.10.98) 311 mining plains have been approved incorporating phased afforestation programme. In Koraput, Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts at present only one bauxite mine at Panchapatamali in Koraput district is reporting production. In this bauxite mine of M/s National Aluminium Co. Ltd. 9,07,700 trees have been planted till March, 1998 with a survival rate of 85%.

Illegal Mining at Paddar Mines

1659. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be Pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn towards the IIegal mining and smugglers activities at Paddar Mines where the valuable Sapphires are available; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the illegal mining in the Paddar sapphires mines.

As per the scheme of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act,, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder the main responsibility for checking illegal mining rests with the state Governments. Information sought from the State Government in this regard is awaited. As per information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines, the area was surveyed jointly by Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Jammu & Kashmir and *J & &* Minerals Ltd. (lease holder) and a report was submitted to the State Government. A